(b) if so, the names of the places in which these refineries are proposed to be set up.

(c) the names of the private sector Indian/foreign companies which have submitted applications so far for setting up refineries;

(d) the action taken so far on these applications; and

(e) if no action has been taken so far, when it is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (e) In a statement made by the Home Minister in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on 16.8.85 regarding Assam Accord it was indicated that the Government of India had agreed, *inter alia*, "to establish an oil refinery in Assam. The Government will render all possible assistance in terms of institutional and Bank finance to facilitate the establishment of a refinery in the private sector." In pursuance of this, a techno-economic study was made on the feasibility of establishing another refinery in Assam. This report is still under the consideration of Government.

मुख्य न्यायाधीशों, मुख्य मंत्रियों तथा विधि मन्त्रियों के सम्मेलन के फैसले

*119 श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी :
श्री अश्विनी कुमार :

क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अगस्त-सितम्बर, 1985 में हुए मुख्य मंत्रियों और राज्यों के विधि मंत्रियों तथा विभिन्न उच्च न्यायालयों के मुख्य न्यायाधीशों के सम्मेलन में यह निर्णय लिया गया था कि अधीनस्थ न्यायालयों में कार्य कर रहे सभी श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों के वेतनमानों तथा सेवा शर्तों में काफी सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है और इस संबंध में समुचित कार्यवाही की जानी चाहिए ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो राज्यों/केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में इस संबंध में अब तक हुई प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

विधि और न्याय मंत्री (श्री अशोक कुमार सेन) : (क) और (ख) मुख्य न्यायमूर्तियों, विधि मंत्रियों और मुख्य मंत्रियों के 31 अगस्त, और 1 सितम्बर, 1985 को नई दिल्ली में हुए संयुक्त सम्मेलन में अधीनस्थ न्यायालयों के कर्मचारियों की सेवा शर्तों के बारे में कोई सिफारिश नहीं की गई है, किन्तु सम्मेलन ने यह तय किया कि अधीनस्थ न्यायापालिका के कर्मचारियों के वेतन और परिलब्धियों तथा सेवा की शर्तों में व्यापक सुधार की आवश्यकता है। चूंकि अधीनस्थ न्यायपालिका का संबंध राज्य सरकारों से है ; अतः संयुक्त सम्मेलन की सिफारिशें समुचित कार्रवाई करने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को भेज दी गई हैं।

Offer to international companies for oil exploration

*120. SHRI L. GANESAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times in the past, Government offered offshore areas to international companies for oil exploration;

(b) the details thereof, in each case and also the outcome of each exploration;

(c) whether any decision has been taken recently to offer offshore areas to international oil companies;

(d) what are the terms offered; what had been the response so far; and

(e) the areas which are presently being offered to international companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Offshore areas were offered to foreign oil companies for exploration of hydrocarbons five times in the past. Four exploration contracts were signed as per details given below:—

Contracts	Areas	Date of Contract
1. Carlesberg Natomas Group	West Bengal Offshore Basin	May 14, 1974
2. Reading & Bates Group	Kutch Offshore Basin	May 24, 1974
3. Asamera Group	Cauvery Offshore	Oct. 23, 1975
4. Chevron Oil Co.	Saurashtra Offshore Block-II	March 26, 1982

In all the cases the contractors relinquished the contract areas as all the exploratory wells drilled by them were dry.

(c) to (e) It has been decided to invite offers from reputed international oil companies for exploration in 27 blocks in the offshore areas of Saurashtra and Kerala-Konkan basins on the Western Coast and Cauvery, Krishna-Godavari, Palar and Mahanadi basins on the Eastern Coast.

It is envisaged that the contract will be in the form of production sharing with a seismic option, no signature or production bonus, no royalty payments, corporate income-tax at 50 per cent, bank guarantees to be obtained only for a percentage of the annual work programme, contractor to offer entire cost oil and the profit oil to Government at international market prices till India achieves self-sufficiency.

Actual response of the oil companies would be known after the bids are invited.

Construction of Thein Dam

@616. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report that appeared in the Times of India of January 10, 1986 to the effect that delay in taking a decision, about construction of the Thein dam, within a few days, is likely to result in delay in the construction of the dam by at least two years and a cost escalation of Rupees 364 crores.

(b) whether a decision in the matter has been taken, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India of January 10, 1986. The work on the construction of the Thein Dam is already in progress according to the present schedule and there is no delay. A decision on the foreign offers

@Previously Unstarred Question 21, transferred from the 21st February, 1986